

Minutes of the SUS Business Meeting, October 6, 2012
Gib Prettyman, Secretary/Treasurer

1. Society president Phil Wegner welcomed everyone and thanked the organizers, chairs, and volunteers
2. Peter Fitting (Toronto Local Conference chair) and Lyman Sargent (Program chair) reported on the conference, which had 130 participants. They noted that there are costs and issues with AV equipment; for the future, they encourage participants to be mindful of costs when assessing their specific AV needs.
3. **Future conference reports:**
 - a. The 2013 conference will be in Charleston, South Carolina at the historic Francis Marion Hotel. Later: mid-Nov. (to get cheaper rate). Claire Curtis (Local Conference chair) invited ideas for excursions. Dina Smith (Program chair) announced a June 1 deadline for paper proposals, with plans to use a paper submission website. Dina invited people to organize panels and requested participants to use keywords in proposals to help place papers where they belong on the program. The conference theme will be utopia and freedom, in recognition of the 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation and the 50th anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education.
 - b. The 2014 conference will be in Montreal, with Brian Greenspan as Local Conference chair and Peter Sands as Program chair.
 - c. Phil invited members to share ideas or to express interest in helping to organize future conferences beyond 2014.
4. **Utopian Studies.** Via email, *Utopian Studies* editor Nicole Pohl reported: “we received 59 manuscripts between 2 October 2011 and 2 October 2012. We rejected 29.5 % of these manuscripts, accepted 34.1% and the others went through several revision stages. Our aim is to push up the rejection statistics and we therefore changed the reviewers' letter and instructions (with the help of the editorial board).” Phil announced that the Editorial Board likes the journal's new look and is happy with the new PSUP arrangement. They had some questions about what electronic versions were being made available. There was a request from the floor to check with PSUP about including electronic access to the journal with our membership subscriptions; Gib will inquire about this.
5. **Utopus Discovered** newsletter: No Report.
6. **Internet presence:**
 - a. Pete Sands reported that H-Utopia subscriptions (via H-Net) were up to 553, up about 50 from last year. There are subscriptions from 33 different countries, with a slight uptick usage on the list.
 - b. Jill Belli reported on the new Society website and encouraged participants to sign up as users (optional). She is working on a database to streamline membership info and other Society communications. There is a lot of work that could be done such as building the Teaching webpage and adding new material to the site; Jill invited members to become involved and to send her an email if interested.
7. **Treasurer's report:**
 - a. The Society is in good financial health. We collected about \$15,000 in conference fees and should break even on conference costs. We also collected about \$8,000 in membership fees, which will cover our \$6,000 bill from Penn State UP for the journal and other operating costs (website, travel awards, etc.). We continue to have about \$80,000 in savings.
 - b. The Society discovered that our tax-exempt status was automatically suspended by the IRS due to a change in the tax reporting regulations that we didn't realize. Gib will file a Form 1023 by the end of the year to apply for reinstatement of our tax-exempt status.
 - c. Due to the uncertainty of our tax status, the subvention issue from 2011 remains tabled at this time.

8. **Membership report.** Brian Greenspan reported that we currently have around 200 members, down slightly from past years, but this may be a function of rolling memberships. He is working on plans for a membership database that can help him to email reminders to those whose memberships are about to expire.
9. **Nominating Committee:** Naomi Jacobs invited people to get involved as leaders. She invited nominations from the floor; there were none. She called a vote for the slate of nominees below, which was approved.

2012-2013 SUS Steering Committee Membership and Nominees
(all nominations in italics)

STEERING COMMITTEE

Phil Wegner, President/Chair (-2014)
Gib Prettyman, Secretary/Treasurer
Naomi Jacobs, Chair, Nominating Committee (-2014)

Ex-Officio (with vote):
Nicole Pohl, Editor, *Utopian Studies*
Alex Hall, Editor, *Utopus Discovered*
Jill Belli, Web Site Liaison
Peter Sands, H-Net
Rebecca Totaro, Awards Chair (-2014)
Brian Greenspan, Membership Chair (-2014)
Carrie Hintz, Teaching Committee Chair (-2013)

Conference Chairs:

Peter Fitting, 2012 Local Chair, Toronto (-2013)
Lyman Sargent, 2012 Program Chair (-2013)
Claire Curtis, 2013 Local Chair, Charleston, SC (-2014)
Dina Smith, 2013 Program Chair, Charleston, SC (-2014)

At-Large Members:

Justin Nordstrom (-2013)
Beate Rodewald (-2013)
Mark Tabone (-2014)
Corina Kesler (-2014)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Naomi Jacobs, Chair (-2014)
Carrie Hintz (-2013)
Justin Nordstrom (-2013)

AWARDS COMMITTEE

Rebecca Totaro, Chair (-2014)
Antonis Balasopoulos (-2014)
Toby Widdicombe (-2014)
Ruth Levitas (-2015)
Nathaniel Coleman (-2015)

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Brian Greenspan, Chair, Membership (-2014)
Claire Curtis, 2013 Local Chair
Dina Smith, 2013 Program Chair
Nicole Pohl, Editor of *Utopian Studies*
Gib Prettyman, Secretary-Treasurer
Dwight Kiel, (-2013)

TEACHING COMMITTEE

Carrie Hintz, Chair, (2014)
Tom Moylan (-2013)
Pete Sands (-2014)
Christina Braid (-2015)

10. **Awards Committee:** Mark Jendrysik announced this year's award winners:

Arthur O. Lewis Award: **Wylie Lenz**, "The Utopian Hobo Enclaves of Jack London and Upton Sinclair"; Eugenio Battisti Award for the best article in *Utopian Studies*: **John Freeman-Moir**, "Crafting Experience: William Morris, John Dewey and Utopia," *Utopian Studies*, Vol 22 No 2; Lyman Tower Sargent Distinguished Award: **Ruth Levitas**

11. **Teaching Committee:** Pete Sands presented the Kenneth M. Roemer Innovative Course Design Award to **Clint Jones** for "Mythologies of the Future." The committee invited submissions for next year's award.

12. **New Business:**

- a. Phil explained that we need to clarify some language in the bylaws, e.g. regarding the president elect—our established traditions and practices don't match what the bylaws say.
- b. Phil proposed that we amend the section on voting in the bylaws to add "email and other electronic means" to the official means of voting. Jill Belli explained the reasons for this proposal. There was no discussion. The vote called and seconded; the motion passed.